(b) No, Sir.

(c) Considering various factors such as area under control of the existing Division, business potential, premium income, economic viability, availability of infrastructure, etc., opening of the sixth Divisional Office in Bihar is not found viable at present.

[*English*]

Exim Scrip Racket

5050. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Fake Wxim scrips racket detected in Madras' appearing in the Indian Express dated March 10, 1992;

(b) if so, the salient points brought out therein and the action taken thereon,

(c) the details of the exim scrip rackets unearthed by the Government dunng the last 12 months; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the reports alleging issuance of Eximscrips based on forged documents. On varifications, it has been found that 49 Eximscrips were issued by the Officer of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, Madras based upon the documents subsequently found to be forged. Similarly, some cases have also been detected where such Eximscrips were issued by the other License issuing authorities. These Eximscrips were issued by the other Licence issuing authorities. These Eximscrips were cancelled. In most of the cases, the matter has already been handed over to the police for appropriate action. The other cases are being handed over to the police for similar action.

Raids on Share Brokers in Bombay

5051. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income tax department/ the Central Bureau of Investigation recently conducted raids on the premises of share brokers in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of unaccounted money, other assets and incriminating documents recovered during these raids;

(d) the action taken so far against the persons found guilty; and

(e) the number of such other raids carried out by the income tax department in the country during the last twelve months and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). Searches were conducted recently by the Income-tax Department at the premises of three groups of share brokers in Bombay. Some of the searches are not yet complete. However, besides incriminating documents showing tax evasion, the following assets have already been seized:-

	Asset	*Value (Rs. lakhs)*
(i)	Cash	29.85
(ii)	Jewellery	15.45
(iii)	Others	380.76
	Total	426 06

Follow-up actions on the materials found in the course of searches have been taken up.

(e) Apart from the above, a share-broker was searched in Madras in January, 1992, resulting in seizure of assets worth Rs. 32.45 lakhs and disclosure of Rs 22.50 lakhs under section 132(4) of the Income-tax Act.

Development of Haldia-Farakka Stretch of Inland Waterways

5052. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) the total amount spent so far for the development of Haldia-Farakka stretch of Inland Waterways;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decision to further development works in the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A total amount of Rs. 204.82 lakhs was spent upto March, 1990. During the period April, 1990 - February, 1992 a total amount of Rs. 246.50 lakhs (provisional) was spent for the development of Haldia-Ballia stretch of the waterway which includes development of Haldia-Farakka stretch also.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The details of provisions made in the Annual Plan 1992-93 are as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

(i) Construction of cargo handling terminal at Calcutta
1 00

(ii) Provision of navigational aids in Ganga including Haldia-Farakka stretch
0.90

(iii) River Conservancy works on the Ganga including Haldia-Farakka stretch
1 50

Insurance by GIC

5053. SHRI SAYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for insurance policies submitted and received by the General Insurance corporation under the Public Liability Act from manufacturers and users of hazardous substances upto 31st December, 1991;

(b) the total amount sought to be insured and the premium payable;

(c) whether any proposals were accepted by the G.I.C.;

(d) whether these proposals were to be insured by an underwriter; and

(e) if so, the name of the under-writer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No proposal was received by